

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION SS-25

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P R 171230 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 907

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

MAMEMBASSY ROME 2329

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION NATO

USDEL FRANCE UNN

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 1266

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MARR, VN

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF NORTH VIETNAM DELAYED

REF: BRUSSELS 1440

1. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS RETURN ON NIGHT OF MARCH 16 FROM EC MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS, FONOFF DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VAN LYNDEN ASKED DCM TO SEE HIM AT HIS HOUSE TO SUMMARIZE DISCUSSION CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF NORTH VIETNAM. VAN LYNDEN ALSO GAVE DCM FRENCH TEXT OF STATEMENT WHICH HE SAID BELGIAN FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE READ TO PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING MINISTERIAL MEETING (BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL).

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2. VAN LYNDEN' S COMMENTS ON THE " SENSE OF THE MEETING" RE RECOGNITION OF NORTH VIETNAM TALLIED WITH THOSE GIVEN TO EMBASSY BRUSSELS BY BALANCQUAERT (REFTEL). VAN LYNDEN AMPLIFIED THAT GON FONMIN SCHMELZER HAD GIVEN CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT DURING MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION TO APPROACH MADE TO HIM PREVIOUS DAY BY AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN THE HAGUE (HAGUE 1238) AND TO PRESIDENT NIXON' S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT RE SERIOUSNESS OF NORTH VIETNAM VIOLATION OF VIETNAM PEACE AGREEMENT. RESULT WAS, ACCORDING TO VAN LYNDEN, THAT EVEN THOUGH DUTCH HAD BEEN PRESSION SOMEWHAT HARDER THAN THEIR BENELUX PARTNERS FOR PROMPT OPENING OF LINKS WITH NORTH VIETNAM SCHMELZER HAD MADE NO RPT NO DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING EC CONSENSUS TO DELAY ANY FURTHER ACTION FOR AT LEAST A FEW DAYS. BY THE SAME TOKEN SCHMELZER HAD DROPPED THE IDEA OF ISSUING HIS OWN STATEMENT FOLLOWING MAR 16 EC MINISTERIAL, AND INSTEAD HAD GONE ALONG WITH COMMON, MORE GENERAL STATEMENT READ TO PRESS BY VAN ELSLANDE. VAN LYNDEN GAVE INDIRECT CORROBORATION TO DISCUSSION OF LENGTH OF DELAY (REFTEL) BY SAYING THAT AS FAR AS DUTCH WERE CONCERNED IT WOULD DEPEND ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS RE MOVEMENT OF NORTH VIETNAM MEN AND MATERIEL TO SOUTH VIETNAM. VY LYNDEN DID NOT THINK HOWEVER THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WANT IN ANY CASE TO DELAY AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPENING OF LINKS FOR MORE THAN A FEW DAYS.
MIDDENDORF

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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